

## **Cook County Land Exchange**

### **Appendix F: Cumulative Actions**

**Introduction:** The projects listed below were considered for cumulative effects in the appropriate resource sections of Chapter 3 of the Environmental Assessment (EA). See each resource section of Chapter 3 for further discussion on how these projects were considered for cumulative effects and additional projects specific to each resource.

**Past Projects:** Past land exchanges are incorporated into effects analysis by consideration of the present land ownership status and condition in the EA. Existing development is also considered through analysis of the existing level of housing, roads and/or tower sites in multiple resource sections of Chapter 3.

**Present Projects:** The proposed Northmet Land Exchange includes one parcel in the vicinity of McFarland Lake that is proposed to be conveyed to federal ownership. The Cook County Land Exchange also includes a parcel near McFarland Lake. However, the anticipated uses of land do not indicate an effect that would overlap in time and space since no substantial change in land use is anticipated for the Northmet parcel near McFarland Lake.

The Crane Lake Land Exchange would result in a net loss of 87 acres to 1854 Ceded Territory lands under federal ownership. This exchange is not in the vicinity of the Cook County Land Exchange.

When cumulative effects are considered for all three exchanges, there would be a net gain of at least 315 acres of 1854 Ceded Territory lands under federal ownership. The Northmet Land Exchange and Crane Lake Land Exchange are discussed as warranted in Chapter 3 of the EA.

The South Fowl Lake Snowmobile Access Project is near the vicinity of the one parcel near McFarland Lake. Sound effects from the proposed construction of a fire hall and snowmobile operation are discussed in the Wilderness section of Chapter 3 of the EA. A cumulative impact is unlikely since the noise would not overlap in the same timeframe.

**Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects:** Land exchanges conducted by the Forest Service are considered reasonably foreseeable when a signed feasibility analysis is available. This is due to the possibility that the Regional Forester may require additional work or alterations to a proposal prior to signing the feasibility analysis. There are currently no future land exchanges with a signed feasibility analysis other than the Northmet Land Exchange.

The future uses intended by Cook County of exchanged land were also considered as reasonably foreseeable for this analysis, although specific details such as construction plans are not available

at this time. These uses include: gravel supply, septage disposal, communication tower, fire halls, affordable housing units, recreation sites, and economic development sites.

No other reasonably foreseeable projects (such as timber harvest) are planned by the Forest Service on lands to be exchanged to Cook County.

The overall intensity and plans for management of the proposed lands for exchange by Cook County and the Forest Service are discussed throughout the EA.